DOCUMENTATION OF THE DETAIL NATALITY PUBLIC USE FILE FOR 2003

NOTE: THE RECORD LAYOUT OF THIS FILE HAS CHANGED SUBSTANTIALLY. USERS SHOULD READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY.

Public Use Data Tape Documentation - Natality Detail 2003 Data

This tape documentation was prepared in the Division of Vital Statistics by Steve Steimel of the Systems, Programming, and Statistical Resources Branch (SPSRB) and Paul Sutton, Brady Hamilton of the Reproductive Statistics Branch (RSB). Thomas D. Dunn of SPSRB was responsible for coordinating the natality documentation.

Sharon Kirmeyer of RSB prepared the Technical Appendix. The Registration Methods Section and the Data Acquisition and Evaluation Branch provided consultation to State Vital Statistics offices regarding collection of birth certificate data.

Questions on the documentation or general questions concerning the natality file should be directed to the Systems, Programming, and Statistical Resources Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS, 3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003 (301-458-4777).

Questions concerning the Technical Appendix or substantive questions concerning the natality data should be directed to the Reproductive Statistics Branch, Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS, 3311 Toledo Road, Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003 (301-458-4111).

Included in this document are:

1. Introduction to the Public Use Documentation for 2003
2. List of data elements and tape locations.
3. Machine/File/Data Characteristics.
4. Detail Record Layout.
5. File Position Map from 2003 File to 2002 File.
6. Geographic Code Lists for the United States and the Territories.
7. Lists of Metropolitan Statistical Areas the United States and the Territories.
8. Natality Technical Appendix for 2003.
9. Births: Final Data for 2003.
10. Control Total Tables for Selected Revised Certificate Items.

SYMBOLS USED IN TABLES

Symbol	Explanation
---	Data not available
...	Category not applicable
-	Quantity zero
0.0	Quantity more than 0 but less than 0.05
*	Figure does not meet standards of reliability or precision